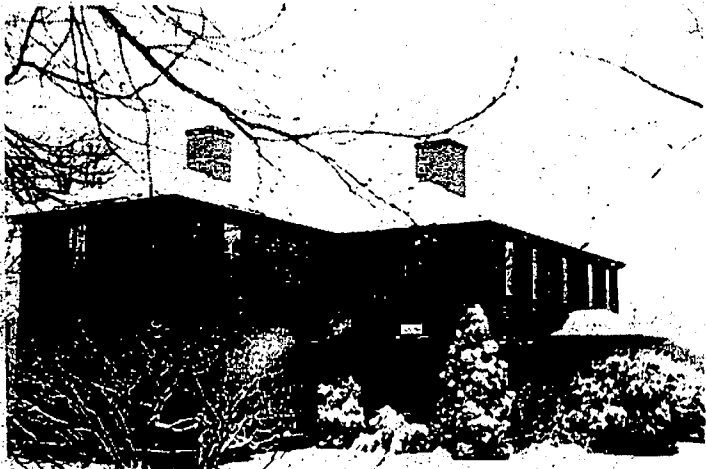


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When ship yards were springing up all along the shore, Joshua Cushing bought 6 acres, the shore end of a farm, and started building vessels. There were no roads in this part of Duxbury, only a cartway that is now Water Street, leading to the bay and the new ship yard.

West of the shipyard and near the cartway Joshua built a house for his bride, Joanda, a 2-storied house with 4 rooms on each floor around a central chimney. It was a braced frame house, so there must have been a "raising" when men came from far and near to raise the heavy timbers that had been cut and fitted. So a day long celebration, with the big dinner and barrel of rum to ease the work, started this old house in 1792.

Three Joshuas brought up 3 families here, each being called junior at various times, and at others being just plain Joshua, to the confusion of all who would fathom the history of the Cushing house. It was Joshua Jr., who built the house, yet when he sold half of it to his son, he called him junior. That sale, in 1823, father to son, while not too unusual then, is interesting in its detail:

Joshua Cushing, Duxbury, for \$850 to Joshua Cushing, Jr., ship carpenter "...one half, it being the westerly part, of my dwelling house..."

Then came an exact division of the house from the rear "by the westerly partition of the kitchen-- to the partition of the westerly front room--by that partition to the chimney that is the fireplace in the west front room..." to continue on to the front wall of the house, the same line dividing the chambers above. Joshua Jr. is also given the use of both front and back stairs, the front hall and porch, half the cellar and use of cellar and bulkhead stairs.

The main part of the house, the original part, is so little changed that today one can follow that division line and visualize the shared privileges. Two ells have been added, one to the west and one to the north, and a porch to the east, but the original house has changed little inside, and not at all on the outside. Perhaps it should be pointed out that the present east porch is an open veranda sort, while the porch mentioned in the 1823 deed is an extension of the front hall, an enclosed part of the hall room, extending beyond the front house line. The meaning of the term "Porch" has changed considerably.

On the north part of Joshua's acres are now other houses and the shipyard is no longer on the shore, yet the old rights of way, for Joshua "to pass and repass to the shipyard with teams" still exists, a small narrow access strip that goes with the house lot. The present owner, Herbert W. Kelley, can look out of the narrow 6 over 6 paned windows, over the grassy expanse where once was a shipyard, and be proud to own the substantial house Joshua Cushing built in 1792.

Dorothy Wentworth, researcher